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los angeles valley college
VALLEY STAR
the independent student newspaper

GIVE ME A 'V'!
Valley Cheerleaders and Spirit Team Members Keep Monarchs Motivated
»6

lavalleystar.com | October 21, 2009 | Volume 71, Issue 6

Homecoming 2009

SCOTT MITCHELL, PHOTO EDITOR | VALLEY STAR

MONARCH PRIDE IN STRIDE - An energized and eager Monarch football squad takes the field in Saturday's homecoming game against cross-town rivals, East Los Angeles College Huskies.

CHARLES RANDLE
STAFF WRITER

Valley College welcomed its alumni, faculty and current student body Saturday to celebrate its annual homecoming tradition. The celebration also marked Valley's 60th anniversary of such an event and began with a pre-game tailgating barbecue that was sponsored by the Associate Student Union (ASU)

Familiar Monarch faces in attendance included former ASU President James Brevard. Brevard, who went on to graduate as Valedictorian of UCLA's Film Department; was impressed by the approximate turnout of a few hundred past and present Valley students.

"As far as personal development, Valley did more for me than UCLA, and its staff continues to support me even after the fact, " said Brevard.

Also among the crowd was head of the English department, Alfred Zucker, whose uninterrupted Valley homecoming attendance streak remains in place. Zucker graduated from Valley in 1960 and then went on to graduate from UCLA with a doctorate in English.

"This is my 58th consecutive homecoming here at Valley College," he said.

The evening was capped by a halftime presentation that included ASU President Arthur Minasyan presenting a large ceremonial check that represented the $500 donation on behalf of the ASU to the Valley Endowment Foundation. Accepting the check was the Foundation's Chair, Phil Mundy, Valley Alumni of '68.

"We thought if we stepped up and made a large donation, which ultimately comes back to the students, then maybe it will get the ball rolling and allow donors to open up their wallets and contribute to Valley which is the ultimate goal," said Minasyan.

Former Athletic Director Chuck Ferrero, who has more than 30 years of Valley servitude under his belt, is also on the Valley Hall of Fame Committee. The Hall of Fame is

|See **HOMECOMING**, Page 2|

ONLINE EXCLUSIVES

Erwin Street Elementary
Valley's Photo Editor gathers the Class of 1968 to reminisce about the "good old days" for pizza, pop, kickball and rock and roll music on the playground of the school

ONLINE SLIDESHOW

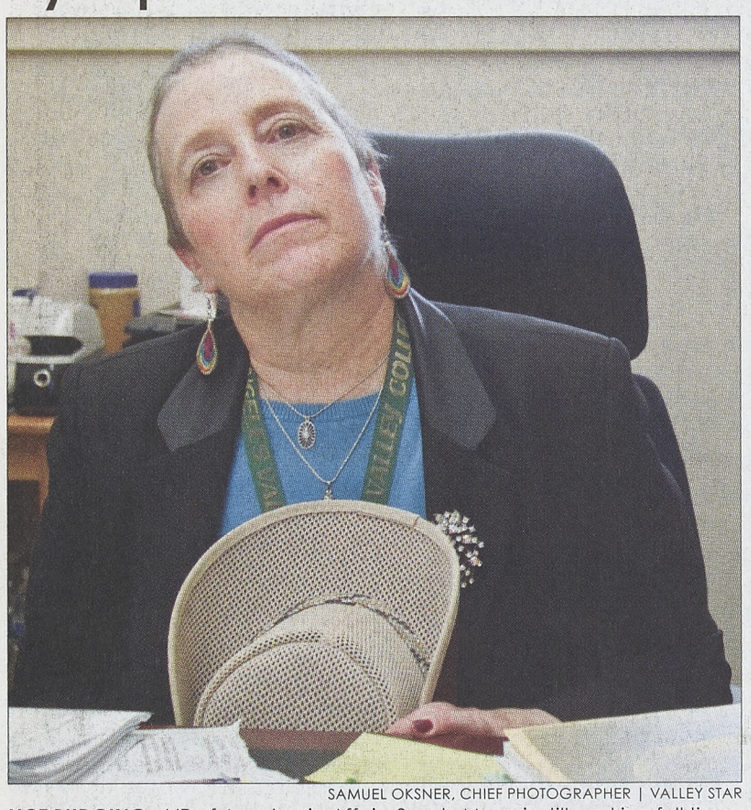
Herman Leonard
American photographer visits Valley's campus to discuss his work and life.

ONLINE GALLERY

More Homecoming photos found online to celebrate the 60th anniversary event.

These full stories and more can be read online @ www.lavalleystar.com

Lymphoma Has No Power Over VP



SAMUEL OKSNER, CHIEF PHOTOGRAPHER | VALLEY STAR

NOT BUDGING - VP of Academic Affairs Sandy Mayo is still working full time.

CRISTINA SERRATO & CHARLES RANDLE
STAFF WRITERS

On Jan. 2, 2009 a morning phone call woke Valley College Vice President of Academic Affairs, Sandy Mayo. It was the Kaiser Permanante Hematology and Oncology department, bringing in the new year with news about the discolored puffy spot that was located on her neck. The spot was a secondary response from a mass located behind her sternum, which was pressing on a vein. The reason for the mass was Hodgkin's lymphoma, a form of blood cancer.

"I'm pretty calm with most information, I can pretty much handle anything if I have the correct data," said Mayo, whose father passed away from cancer. When first diagnosed Mayo struggled, feeling agitated by a lack of information, thus beginning her quest for data.

"I called my doctor and I said 'If I do not hear back from you by this time tomorrow, my next call would be to member services.'" Mayo received a return call from her doctor who began to fill in the gaps. "It wasn't positive information that was given to me, but it was the data I needed to have so I could move forward."

Mayo spent much of 2009 moving forward and fighting against the disease. Mayo stated that she went through chemotherapy with as little medicine as possible and with one continuing theme; a smile and sense of humor.

"I had 12 rounds of chemo, six to kill cancer and six to kill me off. It didn't, so I'm great," Mayo said with a chuckle. "You have to keep a sense of humor about it."

Hodgkin's lymphoma is 98 percent curable and scientists know that the Reed-Sternberg cell can be found in conjunction with this cancer, according to LymphomaInfo.net. With five types of Hodgkins lymphoma and 36 other types of lymphoma, there are many different

|See **MAYO**, Page 2|

Board Deems Student Union Building A High Priority

Joint ASU and Faculty Board place a Student Union Building as a high priority.

JONATHAN SEELEY
STAFF WRITER

A facilities master plan emergency session was called Tuesday that resulted in the Student Services Support Building being established as a high priority for the Valley College campus.

The 8-4-1 vote that placed the "high priority" tag on the building means that the campus would greatly benefit from the building and it will see its fair share of the $300 million Measure J funds. The voters included 13 faculty members and Katrina Herrera, commissioner of political affairs for the ASU. The voters had the option of placing a high, medium or low status on the

|See **MEETING**, Page 2|

SCOTT MITCHELL, PHOTO EDITOR | VALLEY STAR

WORKING IT OUT - Administrators gathered around in numbers to discuss the facilities master plan in an emergency meeting.

NEWS ANALYSIS

LACC PRESIDENT SHOULDN'T BE ALLOWED TO VIOLATE STUDENTS' RIGHTS

ROBERT R. KING
OPINION EDITOR

All colleges should give their students the most positive learning environment possible, but when school administrators willingly create a hostile environment they should be removed.

Such is the case at Los Angeles City College where repeated efforts have been made by the school's president Jamilah Moore to handicap the ability of their student newspaper, 'The Collegian,' from operating with the full rights of the First Amendment.

"It's disturbing," said Collegian's faculty advisor Rhonda Guess on Monday. "[On this campus] people don't have a problem limiting student access or chipping away at student press rights."

According to Guess and Frank Elaridi, the editor-in-chief of the Collegian, Moore has attempted to slash the paper's budget by 40 percent when all other departments were to be cut 15 percent.

Moore also tried to make reporters sign documents in order to record public meetings, and violated California's open meeting laws by forcing reporters to identify themselves at public hearings.

Adam Goldstein of the Student Press Law Center (SPLC), an organization designed to assist students when rights violations occur, said that most of these actions were rescended or not fully enforced and don't individually represent "the death of the First Amendment."

|SEE LACC ON PAGE 3|

MEETING

Continued from page 1

building. Herrera was one of the high votes.

"We want to give students the opportunity to stay on campus," Herrera said. "If you make them active, it will make them better students."

What Herrera and Ian Coyne, ASU vice president, are pushing for is a student union building that would centralize student activities into a single spot. Some of the features would include new ASU offices, an advertisement/message room, an Internet café, a new Lion's Den, and a place for clubs to meet. The Student Services Support Building as it currently exists in Valley College's Building Utilization Plan only mentions renovations to the student services area, which includes the cafeteria and the bookstore.

Valley Senate President Don Gauthier provided the sole low-priority vote for the Student Union.

"When I attended Valley College, Santa Monica, Pierce, and Dominguez Hills there wasn't a student union, and I did just fine," said Gauthier. "I was barely on campus outside of class, and had two jobs to get to. Your financial aid must be working out great if you have the time to stay on campus."

Coyne expressed a need and desire by students for a student union center in the building.

"We represent 10,000 students in ICC (Inter Collegiate Council), and they want a building like this," he said.

Historian and editor of Tau Alpha Epsilon (honor's society) Lori Munoz said the new student center would give clubs a place to meet. The club was trying to raise money one day and had to stop due to bad weather.

Vice President of Student Services Yasmin Delahouse who voted to place a high priority on the center, mentioned that a café built at Pierce College, the Freudian Sip, is very successful; being always packed with students and generating revenue for the school. She also mentioned that in 1970 $1 million was allocated for a student services center. The feeling that centralized meeting places are a great source of income was echoed by Vice President of Admissions, Tom Jacobsmeyer who said that a San Diego college saw a 50 percent increase in cafeteria sales when they created a student center.

"We really have 19,000 students on this campus who would support us in trying to get a student union established," ASU President Arthur Minasyan said.

The meeting also addressed other items in Measure J including a parking structure, environmental science center, and modernization of campus facilities.

Clubs Lose Charters Because of Stolen Funds

At least two Valley College clubs lost their charters this year because funds raised last year were reported stolen.

ROBERT R. KING
OPINION EDITOR

The Valley College Philosophy Club and Mecha lost their charters this year after anomalies were found in the way they reported fund-raising income during the spring semester. The clubs did not properly report or deposit money from fund-raising activities, and the Valley Star verified through multiple sources that at least one club officer pocketed student funds that were never reported to the school.

In the wake of the anomalies, other clubs were left wondering if they would also lose their charters.

"There was discussion that all of the existing clubs were in danger of losing their charters," said ASU Vice President Ian Coyne. "That came from the [administration] and was meant as punishment for all the clubs that broke rules. A lot of clubs broke rules."

As a result, the ASU had to re-imagine the fund-raising process and fight for the current clubs' charters, according to Coyne.

Vice President of student services Yasmin Delahoussaye said two weeks ago that no one from the administration would ever lay out an edict that no clubs would be allowed on campus; however she did point out that precautions have been made to help ensure fund raising is conducted properly from now on.

For example, during club days students must purchase tickets from a centralized booth that they can exchange at clubs' tables for goods. The clubs then must exchange the tickets they collect in order to receive the funds they raised.

"The ASU has basically taken away a club's ability to have money exchanged [between them and students] in their hands," said Delahoussaye.

She added that no other disciplinary action has been taken in regards to the missing money.

Valley Hosts First Annual College Fest

Valley College hosts first annual college fest for the LAUSD district 2 high school students.

LUCAS THOMPSON
SPORTS EDITOR

Valley College hosted its first annual College Fest Saturday, welcoming more than 60 universities and eleven high schools to take part in an information event for college-bound high schools students.

"You get to see the different colleges and the options you have," Grant High School Junior Kiara Mejia said.

The event catered to the second district of the Los Angeles Unified School District (LAUSD) including local High Schools like Grant, Van Nuys, Arleta, Verdugo, and Sylmar. It is meant to directly connect and inform high school students about various types of colleges.

According to Student Counselor at Grant High School Rudy Delatore, the College Fest had a turn out of more than 1,000 students with at least 20 voluntary helpers, from each of the 11 high schools invited, to help run the event.

"The event wouldn't have happened without buy in from both Valley and LAUSD," Valley Student Recruitment Coordinator Joel Trudgeon said.

According to Trudgeon, Pierce College is now in its fifth year of hosting this even for District 1 of the LAUSD, and plans to make the event an annual one for Valley and district 2.

"I think it's been very productive and a great resource to find out more about the schools," Cal Lutheran Intern Graduate Monica Gascon said.

The Festival also held several workshops on topics such as financial aid, college essay guidelines, career programs, application processes and individual transfer sessions geared to prepare students to choose a school and route best suited for them.

Valley staff and students also served to coordinate and run the event throughout the day, with two booths designated to help inform the high schools of not only the event, but of the educational opportunities Valley offers.

With coordination from the college, LAUSD, and multiple nationwide college representatives, the positive turnout and success of the 2009 college fest looks to be only the first of many to come.

"It should be an annual thing for students," Advising Coordinator of Cal State University Northridge, Katherine Diaz said. "It's been a good turnout... (it helps) too keep them motivated, and to keep them on track."

HOMECOMING

Continued from page 1

comprised of Valley alumni and is located in the fireside room. It was put in place to honor the achievements of former Valley athletes, including Olympian and professional athletes.

The foundation has set a goal of raising $100,000 in the next five years. So far they have been able to amass $22,000 in pledged funds in the first year of their five-year plan.

The Chairman of the Endowment foundation Paul Sabolic, who attended Valley in 1967 before going on to graduate from the University of Washington has already personally donated $10,000. He expressed his belief that the committee is doing a lot to ensure the preservation of Valley athletics past and present.

"Chuck had this dream to do a dinner that would recognize former great Valley athletes and be able to sustain itself year after year, and we done that, but I felt like we could do more with the enthusiastic group of people we have," Sabolic said.

Throughout the evening hip-hop music could be heard playing from Valley's radio station as alumni shared their knowledge and experience with Valley's new generation of hopefuls.

"This is great, having a chance to talk to people that have already walked the path were on," said Stephanie Woods, Commissioner of Athletics for (ASU).

MAYO

Continued from page 1

symptoms, all of which are non-specific.

"One of the nice things about Sandy is that she's got a strong spirit," Valley President Sue Carleo said, "...none of us knew how much impact the chemo would have, but her determination was to not have her illness negatively affect the college."

She has continued to work at Valley bi-weekly. On the "off" weeks she received intensive bouts of chemotherapy, worked from home and joined Erline Ewing from the Academic Affairs Office, who took part in a lymphoma charity walk on Mayo's behalf. Ewing's father had also died of cancer and her daughter encouraged her to begin the 'Light the Night' walk. Ewing's daughter had completed the walk in previous years with her employer and encouraged her to join their group. The group became so large that Laura Runsten of the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society opened a new chapter at Valley. Within two weeks, the team raised more than $1,700 by selling baked goods and pizza and passing out an envelope on Mayo's behalf. The team plans to 'Light the Night' next year.

"The walk was amazing. Walkers got balloons with lights in them; two miles of lights and it was beautiful," said Ewing. "The event was really neat and we were all very excited for Sandy, it was really, really neat."

Sandy Mayo is proud of the hair she's growing back, and proud of being a survivor. Her doctor called her an "overachiever," but she thinks she's just lucky to have found the cancer in time.

"I feel fortunate that the nurse practitioner did an X-ray. Basically my life was saved by a nurse."

Sometime in November Mayo will know if she's cancer free, but until then she said, "I'm assuming I'm cured."

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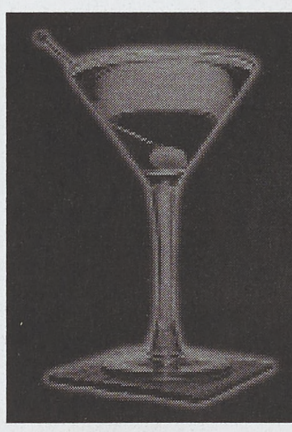

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ASU Should Lend a Helping Hand

With an excess of funds available, Valley's ASU should make a sizeable donation to the cash-strapped SSCCC.

ROBERT R. KING
OPINION EIDTOR

When Reid Milburn, the President of the SSCCC – California community colleges' state level student government – visited Valley College two weeks ago, she brought with her a call to action from community college students around the state. Indications were also made about the current fiscal difficulties of the organization ,but Valley's ASU has the ability help, which can't happen soon enough.

According to public discussion, the ASU is currently sitting on roughly $120,000 earmarked for student representation. The fund has accrued over several years but has not been utilized very often because the money can only be used for the purposes of representing student voices in political forums. It's high time to put this to use, especially in the current political climate.

The Sacramento-based SSCCC serves as community college students' voice in many political forums in the state capital and Milburn made it clear her goal is to do everything she can to ensure no more cuts are made to community college programs.

"LAVC and our region are trying to take a lead role in making sure schools donate [to the SSCCC]," said ASU Vice President Ian Coyne. "A couple of hundred to $1,000 is going to come from our school, but it's going to depend on what we can afford."

Coyne added that he believes the money can come from the student rep. fund, and in that case the donation would be closer to the $1,000 range. It should be more than that.

Vice President of Student Services Yasmin Delahoussaye also believes a donation can be made from the student rep. fund and agrees that one should be made.

Considering the fact that last year's ASU – which several members of the current board were part of – wasted a few thousand dollars from the student rep. fund to hand deliver a thank-you card to legislators during a March protest rally, a donation equaling that amount would be a fitting sum and erase a residual stain leftover from last year.

No Birds or Bees Here, Just Sex-Ed

EDUARDO HERRERA | VALLEY STAR

Sex-ed should be required in college as a course of its own because too many people don't understand how it works.

CRISTINA SERRATO
STAFF WRITER

A bathroom conversation I accidentally eavesdropped on last week made me have another college epiphany: sex education needs to be implemented at a higher education level. After I listened to a conversation where a girl actually told her friend that she's worried she's pregnant because her boyfriend "let it go, when he was in the back," led me to believe Valley needs sex-ed. Since sex is a normal healthy part of human life, sexual education should be as well, and shouldn't stop in high school.

"I could see where sex-ed is a good idea, a lot of people are dumb," commented Valley student Gayane Gyulakopyan.

When most people think of sex-ed classes, they think of giggly embarrassed tweens and teens, but sexual education has evolved into so much more. Adults need to have sexual education that talks about real adult problems. According to recent studies done by Planned Parenthood, half of all people will have contracted a sexually transmitted infection by the age of 25, so college is a great place to host sexual education classes.

"I do believe that adults need (sexual) education; things change, bodies change and you need to take a refresher, even I need one," said Delta Brown, nurse at Kaiser Permanente, Sunset.

Sexual education for adults is becoming a more common concept. The program that is receiving the most notoriety is Our Whole Lives (OWL): Sexual Education for Adults. This program is run by the Unitarian Universalist Association and United Church of Christ, and has been featured by Oprah and several websites now dedicated to ongoing sexual education for adults, including Feministing.com, Oprah.com, OralCarress.com, and for younger adults: Scarleteen.com. The Owl program deals with real life adult issues such as "what to do when the condom breaks, life after sexual infection, and how to orgasm…for real. These are all things that students, being mature adults, need to know.

Sexual education in college should be offered outside of health class. There are many programs, such as OWL, Planned Parenthood, El Proyecto Del Barrio, PACT and the North East Valley Health Corporation that would be willing to offer free or low-cost sex education. Valley could hold a day of sexual awareness and hand out some condoms, but sex-ed needs to continue past the ninth grade.

VALLEY VIEW | DO YOU THINK SEX ED SHOULD BE A COLLEGE REQUIREMENT??

SAMUEL OKSNER, CHIEF PHOTOGRAPHER | VALLEY STAR

It would be helpful because of all the STD's people in college get
- LUNA MOHAMMED, SOCIOLOGY

I think it should be because if you learn it the right way then you'll be good.
- JOSEPH HERNANDEZ, CRIMINAL JUSTICE

It shouldn't forced on someone if they don't think they need to take it.
- MEGAN JOHNSON, KINESIOLOGY

No because as college students we should already know about sex.
- SHELDON FLORES, NURSING

Obama Deserved Nobel Prize

Republican criticism when President Obama was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize exemplifies their crass hypocrasy.

JOSH SPENCE
MANAGING EDITOR

The United States is so knee-deep in political corruption that when the leader of the free world is awarded something so prestigious as the Nobel Peace Prize, certain political parties only look at the situation as more material for their vapid rhetoric.

On Oct. 9 the Norwegian Nobel Committee announced that President Barack Obama would receive the award "For his extraordinary efforts to strengthen international diplomacy and cooperation between peoples."

The award was also intended as "an early vote of confidence intended to build global support for the policies of his young administration."

It's frustrating that right-wing conservatives continue to take swipes at the president with the focal points that Obama hasn't done enough in his early presidency to warrant such an award, and that his nomination was earned solely due to what Michelle Malkin describes as Obama's "We Suck '09 Tour."

Obama isn't saying "We Suck," but rather trying to solve matters in the most logical way. Consider the work that Obama has put into the position of president to gain any traction with world leaders. It would be with complete hubris if Obama followed George W. Bush and thinks that everything is alright. If anything, the president is a bigger man than most to apologize for actions that weren't his.

Consider the fact that Obama was the first sitting president to preside over a United Nations Security Council meeting and installed Lt. Gen. Stanly McChrystal as military commander based on his counterinsurgency techniques. That certainly doesn't suck.

The committee was quick to exemplify Obama's work for non-proliferation of nuclear weapons, especially in Iran – the world's most politically heated region. It's comical for anyone to criticize the president when he has only worked to keep Earth as a planet and not a molten mess of nuclear waste.

It's evident that beneath the chest-beating of Republicans lies a tacit understanding and certain embarrassment that President Obama has been able to do more good in eight months than George W. Bush did in eight years. What's more impressive is that Obama has been able to do more with less and in a worse environment than his predecessor.

The U.S. dollar used to be a strong currency but went virtually bankrupt as the American auto industry hit the emergency brake; banks lost the ability to hold money and taxpayers had to pay $750 billion to keep everything from sinking. It's like living in Springsteen's "The Ghost of Tom Joad."

Republicans want to rip a man for trying to end nuclear warfare, not to mention overhauling a cornerstone of America known as health care. It's overtly hypocritical and insulting.

LACC

Continued from page 1

However, the repeating of these offenses is what constitutes him classifying Moore as "the biggest First Amendment offender in the country."

"LACC has a long pattern of taking positions that are hostile to the newspaper," said Goldstein. "I can't think of anyone who has made as many attempts to censor [the press]."

Now, according to a mass email sent by LACC Vice President of Student Services Lawrence Bradford obtained by the Valley Star, the school administration wants to make the newspaper an arm of the Student Services. Elaridi and Guess say this will give the administration prior review.

"I don't have to tell you why that is wrong," said Collegian editor Elaridi. "They want to make it so that students would have to let the administration know who they wanted to interview and when before they're allowed to. They would [also] be able to edit all content."

It's easy to see why. The censorship Moore seemingly wants to exert over The Collegian could be expected from the despotic tyrant of a totalitarian estate, not from someone supposedly tasked to ensure quality education for all students under their wings.

According to Valley of Dean Fine, Performing, and Media Arts Dennis Reed, nothing like this has happened during his 30 years at Valley. It's nice , to know some people understand the Constitution.

Even if Moore's plan is unsuccessful, the fact that she even thinks any of her actions are warranted demonstrates that she is unfit to oversee the administration of any academic institution, let alone one of higher learning. In light of her actions, she, and any other administrator who supports her plan, should be immediately fired before they can violate anyone else's rights.

"It's not good enough to say, 'We're just going to try and break the law. Then when people find out we are, we're going to stop,'" said the SPLC's Goldstein about the LACC administration. "Every college president should understand they have obligations under the First Amendment … This certainly isn't the right job for on the job training."

Students Should be More Thankful

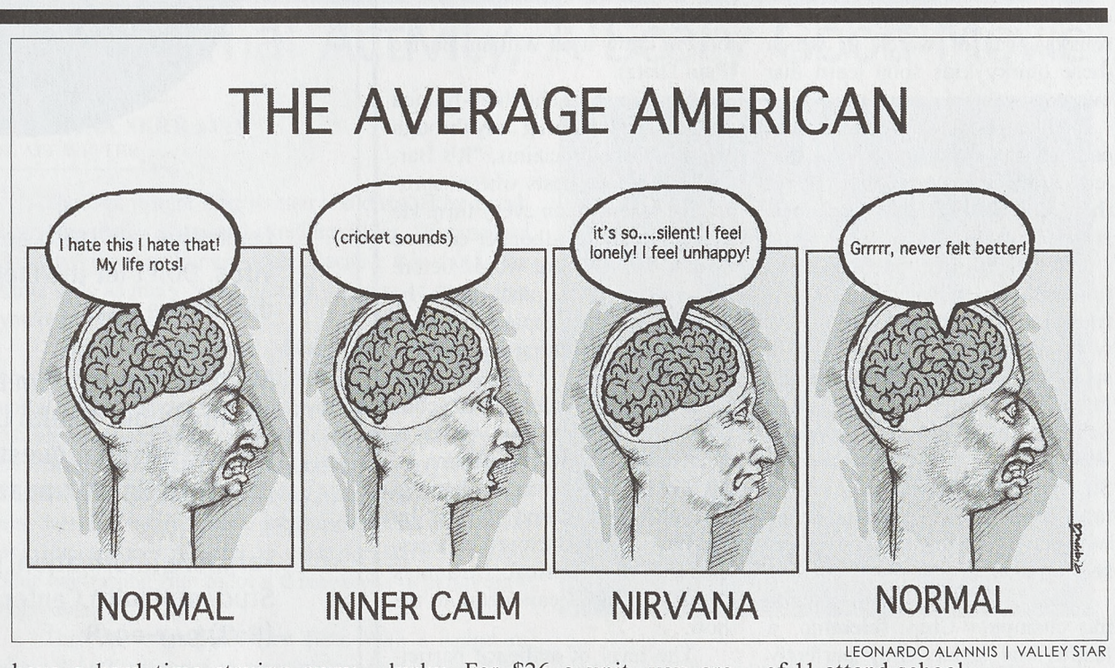
When considering the world's condition, students should feel lucky they have the luxuries of life in the United States.

SARAH KNOWLES
EDITOR IN CHIEF

The American culture is programmed to complain. From a cold cup of coffee in the morning, to the 5 p.m. rush hour or homework deadline, we are seemingly only happy when we're moving onto the next "problem" in life. Unfortunately, we're so busy complaining, we are unable to see the beauty in life and how lucky we actually are.

According to the New York Times, more than 16 million Americans suffer from depression. One of the top reasons for the disorder is a lack of exercise and a poor diet. It is sad that we are lazy and burger-addicted to the point of it affecting our ability to be happy. Ironically, CNN reports that Costa Rica – a nation with high activity and lower obesity levels – has "the highest life satisfaction in the world and has the second-highest average life expectancy of the new world," despite difficult working conditions and a less privileged lifestyle. The country's minimum wage is around $2.45; the average US minimum wage: $7.

Politics is a subject that causes much debate and, in turn, hatred. As a nation built upon democracy, we should be grateful for the privilege to speak our minds, rather than complaining about what has yet to be done. It is difficult to believe that in 2009, some nations' people are still not allowed to speak their minds freely. Those in China are restricted from speaking out and have limited Internet access. Most Valley College students have a hard time staying away from Facebook for 24 hours. Try staying away because the government says so. Chinese Internet access is heavily restricted, and sites including Facebook have been banned at times, according to CNN.



LEONARDO ALANNIS | VALLEY STAR

Politics may not be the highest distraction, especially for a student, but there are many other reasons to count yourself lucky. For $26 a unit, you are able to improve your education. A small fee to the school gives you access to a library, Internet and computer access, as well as many free programs to take advantage of. In stark comparison, Education Africa reports that college education is all but unheard of in much of the continent, and only four out of 10 African children under the age of 11 attend school.

The next time you find yourself about to open your mouth to complain, try taking a look around at what is going on outside of your own troubled bubble. The smallest problems are a blessing compared to what many must go through. Take notice, and you may realize life isn't so bad after all.

LET US KNOW WHAT YOU THINK

Letters to the editor can be sent to editor@lavalleystar.com or submitted online at www.lavalleystar.com. Letters must be limited to 300 words and may be edited for content. Full name and contact information must be supplied in order for letters to be printed. Send by Thursday for the following week's issue.

LAVC Events

Now - Dec. 10
Parent & Baby Sessions for Infants (not walking) Thursdays from 12-1 p.m. in Bungalow 49.
For more information, contact the Family Resource Center at (818) 778-5612 or huffgf@lavc.edu

October 21
A "Self-Advocacy Practice" Workshop (for DSPS students only) from 2-3 p.m. - Faculty Lounge.

October 22
A "Learning Disabilities: Facts and Tips" Workshop will be held from 1-2 p.m. - Faculty Lounge.

LAVC Evening College Fair – Monarch Square. Colleges will talk with evening students about transferring. 5-7 p.m.
For more information contact (818) 947-2646.

October 22 - 24
The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee $10(general admission), 8 p.m - Horseshoe Theater.
For more information, contact (818) 947-2790 or cathysp@sbcglobal.net.

October 23
"The Seven Numbers That Every Business Needs to Know to Succeed in 2010" seminar - Junior Achievement Finance Park at 6250 Forest Lawn Drive 8-10 a.m. featuring speaker Paul Butler.
Reserve your seat by calling (818) 947-2927 or email beckdr@lavc.edu.

EOPS 40th Anniversary celebration - outside the Tutoring Center (Cafeteria 100) 12-1 p.m.

October 24
60th Anniv. Concert Handel, Haydn, Mendelssohn, the LAVC Philharmonic Choir & soloists - $25(general admission), $15(students and seniors), $10(LAVC students). - 8 p.m. Music Bldg. Mainstage Theater.
For more information, contact (818) 778-5633.

October 26
Save the Date - Pandemic H1N1 Flu Update 1-2 p.m. the latest news and Q&A
For more info, contact the LAVC Student Health Center at (818) 947-2918.

October 28
Campus Clean-Up - 2:30-4 p.m. Drinks and cleaning supplies provided.

Think Transfer!

Fall 2010 UC & CSU
Deadline - Nov. 30
Apply @ www.universityofcalifornia.edu/apply and www.csumentor.edu

October 21
UCLA Rep.: 9-3 p.m.
UC Santa Barbara Rep.: - 9-2 p.m.
Undecided Major/Career Workshop: 11-2 p.m.

October 23
Loyola Marymount Bus Trip & Lunch 8-4 p.m.

October 26
Transfer Workshop 5:30-6:30 p.m.

October 27
College Fair 10-1 p.m. @ Monarch Square.
Followed by Transfer Admission Workshops 1:15-2:30 p.m. (UC-FL100, CSU-FL102, USC-FL108, Woodbury, Mount St. Mary's, Pepperdine-FL108)

For Sign-up and further information go to the Career/Transfer Center (Administration 126) or Call (818) 947-2646.

VALLEY COLLEGE PRESENTS DANIEL PEARL WORLD MUSIC DAY

Harmony for humanity fills Valley's Music Recital Hall in celebration of journalist Daniel Pearl.

RAY BLUMHORST
STAFF WRITER

Valley's music department presented its annual "Daniel Pearl World Music Day" concert on Wednesday in the Music Recital Hall from 1-2 p.m. The goal of the concert, featuring the Kadima String Quartet, was to promote cross-cultural understanding through music.

"Judea Pearl, Daniel Pearl's father, sent a message to the Kadima Quartet," said Christian Nova, assistant professor of music. "This year there are 1,582 concert events in the 73 countries participating in this year's World Music Month."

Daniel Pearl was the Wall Street Journal's South Asia Bureau Chief. He was murdered in Karachi, Pakistan in 2002 while working on a story for the Journal. He was also a San Fernando Valley resident.

"I send my warmest greetings to all who are gathered for 'Daniel Pearl World Music Day,'" said Nova, reading a forwarded message from President Obama. "On this occasion, we recommit ourselves to tolerance, compassion, and harmony for humanity."

The Quartet performed music from Bartok, Smetana, and a Jewish folksong suite. Performers include Lynn Angebranndt, cello; Eric Clark, violin; Beth Elliott, viola; and Yi-Huan Zhao, violin.

"This is a very, very special concert for us each year," said Beth Elliott. "It's important for people to get together to do the right thing, and prevent murders and horrible atrocities. We're getting together to make harmony for humanity, instead of doing things that make us not harmonious. One of the most important things about being in a string quartet is that we're together."

Daniel Pearl earned professional acclaim as a journalist, but he was also a classically trained violinist.

"Danny lived a life that knew no geographical boundaries with a spirit that knew no prejudice," reads the Daniel Pearl World Music Days web site. "He joined musical groups in every community in which he lived, leaving behind a trail of musician friends around the globe."

The Kadima String Quartet ended the concert with "Jerusalem of Gold," a song that Elliott said was special to her, because it was her father's favorite.

"The music helps bring people together," said concertgoer, Angela Phillips. "I know his (Pearl's) family has dedicated this day to that."

The Kadima String Quartet will perform at Valley once again on Nov. 22 in the Music Recital Hall.

For more information and reservations call 818-780-9596 or visit www.kadimaconservatory.com

PHOTOS BY SCOTT MITCHELL, PHOTO EDITOR | VALLEY STAR
LEFT PHOTO - Yi-Huan Zhao solos on the violin, Pearl's favorite instrument, which he played for friends in his travels.
RIGHT PHOTO - String quartet honors journalist's memory with songs of hope, heart, and joy.

SPELLING BEE BUZZES GRACEFULLY THROUGH THE HORSESHOE THEATRE

The Theatre Arts department gives a wildly fanciful performance of "The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee."

JAMIE NORRIED
COPY EDITOR

The Valley College performance of Tony award-winning musical comedy, "The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee," directed by Cathy Susan Pyles, is a lively show with hilarious improv and an enthusiastic cast of characters.

Set in the basketball gym of the Putnam County Piranhas, 13 outlandish characters gather for a rousing war of words in which these quirky kids soon learn that everyone can be a winner.

Throughout the competition, each character performs solos that let the audience know more about their unique character and their issues.

Wes Schilling commands attention as the loveable, and easily distracted, cape-clad Leaf Coneybear, who seems to enter a trance while spelling words. He doubles as the father of the lisp-endowed Logainne Schwartzandgrubbenierre (Melanie Wahla) who is the head of the Gay/Straight Alliance at her elementary school, and manages the issues with her parents by immersing herself in politics.

Iain Gray plays defending champion Chip Tolentino, a lustful boy scout. Gray perfectly portrays the horrors of puberty as he belts out a hilarious ballad about the "unfortunate erection," which caused him to be eliminated for misspelling a rather distracting term. Riotous laughter ensues when Gray later emerges as the joke-telling Jesus.

Alyssa Carter plays the neglected Olive Ostrovsky, who fell in love with the dictionary at a young age. She tells the audience in a sweet serenade, "Words are the friends you'll have forever." She later discovers a crush on something other than vocabulary.

Lorin Henner as Vice Principal Panch and Cornelia Renderknecht Eller as host Rona Lisa Peretti are the perfect comical combination. Their amusing antics delight the audience as they concoct creative and outrageous word-usage examples. The pair even successfully improvised when a female volunteer audience member survived elimination by unexpectedly spelling a word correctly.

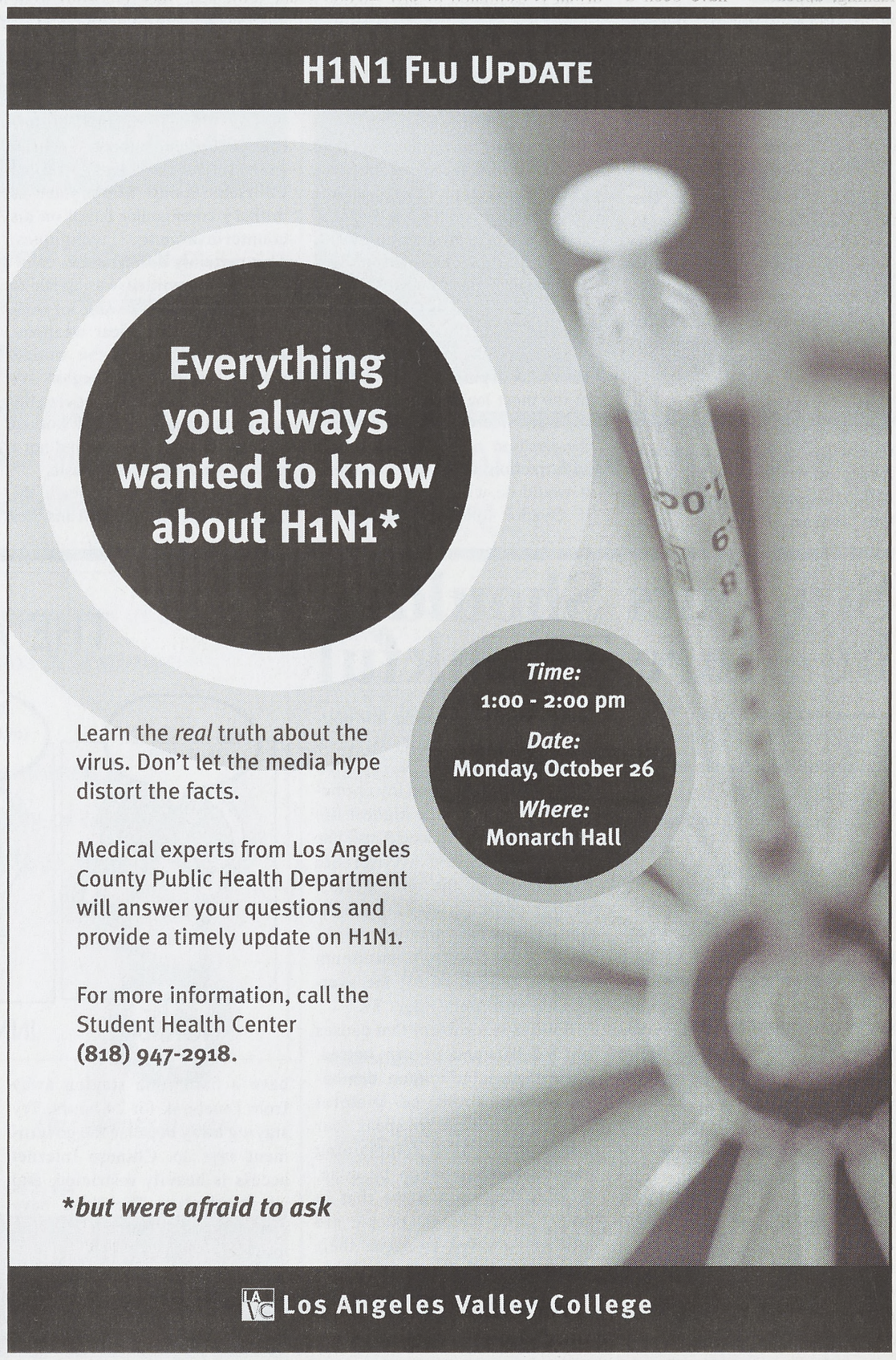
From the menacing Mitch Mahoney to the multi-talented Marcy Park, not one character is lacking talent or enthusiasm in this production. However, none incite more laughter than the "magic foot" of know-it-all William Barfee (Paul Dietz).

Sporting a tie and thick-framed glasses, and breathing only through one nostril he proclaims, "It's Barfay," to the bee hosts who mispronounce his name on every turn. He uses his secret clodhopper-covered weapon to spell out words before announcing them, and while he overcomes an attempted-sabotage, he finds that winning isn't everything.

Marjorie Vander Hoff's choreography proves that "Life is Pandemonium," with precision in this production. Music by Patricia Hannifan and sound design by Matthew Strunim exceed expectations for this musical; Strunim's effects add significant detail to the show.

The level of audience participation is enjoyable, and not intrusive. Adults can enjoy some risqué humor, while adolescents can relate to the awkwardness of growing up in school. At less than two hours, the dancing will entertain younger children as well.

"The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee" plays Oct. 22 - 24 in Valley College's Horseshoe Theatre. The general admission ticket price is $10.


H1N1 Flu Update
Everything you always wanted to know about H1N1*
Learn the real truth about the virus. Don't let the media hype distort the facts.
Medical experts from Los Angeles County Public Health Department will answer your questions and provide a timely update on H1N1.
For more information, call the Student Health Center (818) 947-2918.
Time: 1:00 - 2:00 pm
Date: Monday, October 26
Where: Monarch Hall
*but were afraid to ask
Los Angeles Valley College

IN THE VALLEY, THE LION'S DEN SLEEPS TONIGHT

ASU-funded recreation spot closes its doors and students are dislocated to the cafeteria.

JONATHAN SEELEY
STAFF WRITER

The Lion's Den – the only room on campus formally designated for student recreation – shut its doors indefinitely this year. Paper now covers the windows, and the lights are off.

According to the ASU Executive Council, operating the Lion's Den, costs approximately $20,000 per year. The ASU paid this cost with the fees collected from students every semester.

Employee Brett Nard in a 2008 Valley Star article once said, "Many people see the computers and assume we're a computer lab; they don't see what's on the other side."

At one time, the Den, located in the cafeteria, boasted 25 Internet-accessible computers with printers, pool and air hockey tables, a sofa in front of a big screen TV, and an employee behind the front desk.

Because of low student usage, ASU President Arthur Minasyan commented, "This year's ASU felt that not enough students could take advantage of the Lion's Den, and that $20,000 could be more useful elsewhere."

In addition, ASU Vice President Ian Coyne cited malfunctioning computers and printers, missing pool cues, and a broken TV and furniture as reasons for much needed renovation of the Den.

The ASU executives would like to repurpose the Den space for student use, but there are currently no definitive plans for what to do with it.

"For now, students will have to find other ways to entertain themselves between classes and find another 'home away from home,'" said Nard of his workplace.

SCOTT MITCHELL, PHOTO EDITOR | VALLEY STAR
ADAPTING TO THE CHANGES- Students move their card game and socializing to the middle of the cafeteria.

VALLEY COLLEGE'S URINALS GO GREEN

Valley Star reporter takes you inside waterless urinals to investigate the issues.

RAY BLUMHORST
STAFF WRITER

Valley's male students first noticed the handles were missing on their urinals about a year ago. Old habits sometimes die hard, but a urinal that looks like a urinal, with the exception of a handle for flushing, appears to have been a simple transition for the men of Valley.

"It's no big deal," said Valley student Zachary Paul. "One day they were normal flush, the next day not."

Most waterless urinals on the market today use a trap, or cartridge, filled with a sealing fluid through which the waste flows. The new design eliminates the plumbing code requirement for a water-filled trap and the flush of water required to prime the trap.

"We tried different urinals to see how well they worked before we decided on the ones we have," said Jim Taylor, plumbing supervisor. "We didn't like the ones that used cartridges. If they got stuck, it looked like they'd come out suddenly and splash on a person. In the ones we have now, you just add the sealing liquid periodically to refill the trap. It's safer."

In water-starved California, water conservation has become a major environmental issue, adding to the demand for waterless urinals.

"We installed 99 waterless urinals and this was completed January 2009," said Tom Lopez, director of campus facilities. "Each urinal is estimated to save 40,000 gallons per year. We don't save any money by doing this, but we do conserve on our water consumption." Nonetheless, Valley students approve of the change.

"Water conservation is valid," said Paul. "We've been in a drought for a long time. If these new urinals can save water – better used for drinking, bathing, or irrigation – they're a good thing."

There may be other issues with the use of the new urinals as time goes by.

"We're concerned they may add salts deep inside our plumbing pipes over time," said Taylor. "It's still too soon to tell. We're not sold on them, but we'll give them the benefit of the doubt for now."

Two Cents From Spence: Wild Things Will Make Your Heart Sing

Spike Jonze transforms a 10-sentence storybook into a cinematic epic.

JOSH SPENCE
MANAGING EDITOR

Spike Jonze's sweeping adaptation of the classic children's book by Maurice Sendak, "Where the Wild Things Are" is a masterpiece in its own right as the director gives a thoughtful and honest look at family and childhood emotion.

The film centers on Max, a precocious child losing touch with his family. His mother has started dating again and his sister has outgrown him. Feeling unloved and unwanted, Max runs away from home and flees to an island where the wild things are. There, Max learns the structure and intricacies of family as they proclaim him king of the island.

Jonze and Dave Eggers co-write a winning script that is equally funny, dramatic, and sincere. This is remarkable since the source material was only ten sentences. They are able to give each "wild thing" such a distinct character that their personality transcends their appearance and connects with the audience immediately.

The ensemble casting is superb. James Gandolfini is sublime as Carol and he toggles between timid and terror. Forrest Whitaker personifies patience and understanding as Ira, while Catherine O'Hara (Judith) and Paul Dano (Alexander) offer equal comic relief and subtlety.

Max Records stars as the eponymous character, Max. The performance is moving in that his character deals with fundamental issues people face as children, but still aren't ready to cope with as adults. The struggle with fear, love, and understanding makes this movie so universal.

WHERETHEWILDTHINGSARE.WARNERBROS.COM

Jonze as a director fully embraces both the characters and the fantasy elements. This pays huge dividends with surrealism that pulls the viewer in and makes them active participants in Max's journey instead of just passive spectators. The Computer Generated Imagery (CGI) is beautiful and Jonze does a great job of not letting it overtake the film. For all the effects and CGI involved, Jonze's greatest accomplishment is framing those key scenes where the emotion makes or breaks the film, and there is not one mistake.

"Where the Wild Things Are" is unique in that it's faithful to the source material yet expands upon it. It has art-house drama, yet mainstream appeal, and makes you laugh when maybe you shouldn't. This is one film truly worth the theatre experience and is an instant classic.

Paranormal Activity, A Scary Good Movie

CRISTINA SERRATO
STAFF WRITER

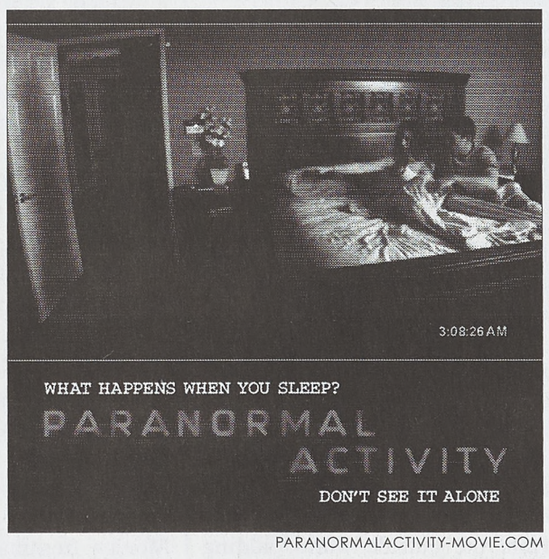
The first feature film written and directed by Israeli born Oren Peli is a true spine tingling chiller. "Paranormal Activity" preys on human doubt. Because it is shot in the same style as many home movies, it's easy to forget that you're in a theater.

Katie Featherston and Micah Sloat play a young couple who have moved into their first home together and it's much scarier than they ever imagined. Katie and Micah, who used their real names in the film, are harassed by a malevolent force soon after moving in, and for Katie, this isn't the first time. A doubtful Micah places camcorders over the entire house, purchases sound equipment and microphones in order to catch the spirit in action. This hair-raising film follows three weeks of paranormal harassment.

This was Oren Peli's first film. With a budget of about $11,000, this was an amazing breakout movie. It has grossed over $11.5 million at the box office so far. Shot over seven days in a California home, the director used suspenseful POV shots as the driving force for the film. The idea of "what if" is the true reason this movie was terrifying, especially with all-too-real chemistry and tension emitted by Featherston and Sloat.

The director made the POV scenes feel like you were there and you sympathize with Katie's fear and anxiety. I know I held my breath with Katie's character more than once and even became angry at Micah taunting the demon. With Katie and Micah, you see a real couple. That the couple had spats, but not in an overly dramatic fashion, made the film more realistic. The film makes you see yourself in their shoes. Peli uses the viewer's mind against them by building up suspense and by catching the moviegoer by surprise.

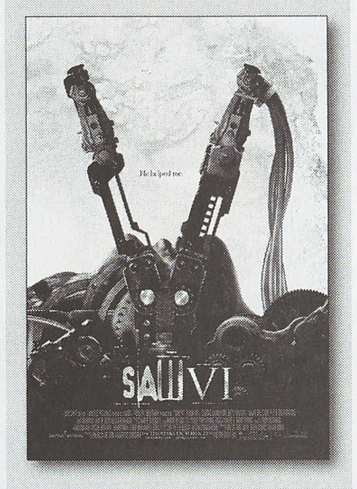
The ending was unexpected and left a whole audience gasping. This film far exceeded expectations and hype. Upon leaving the cinema, I heard mixed audience reaction, but the most frequent remark was, "I don't know how I'll sleep tonight." This movie is scary if you have enough imagination to make it so. The mind is a very powerful tool and Director Oren Peli used it against his audience.



PARANORMALACTIVITY-MOVIE.COM

@THE MOVIES

OPENING THIS WEEKEND



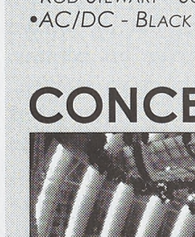
SAW VI
COSTAS MANDYLOR & TOBIN BELL

TOP 5 PLAYING:

- *Where The Wild Things Are: $32M+*
- *Law Abiding Citizen: $21M+*
- *Paranormal Activity: $20M+*
- *Couples Retreat: $17M+*
- *The Stepfather: $12M+*

MEDIA RELEASES

DVD

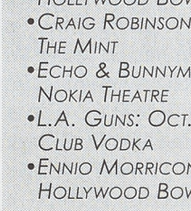


MONSTERS VS ALIENS

ALSO AVAILABLE:

- *Waterworld - Kevin Costner*
- *Planes, Trains and Automobiles - John Hughes*
- *Numb3rs: The Fifth Season - Rob Morrow*
- *Hawaii Five-O: The Seventh Season - Jack Lord*
- *Fawlty Towers: The Complete Collection - John Cleese*

MUSIC

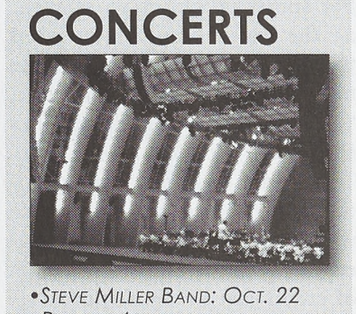


CREED
Full Circle

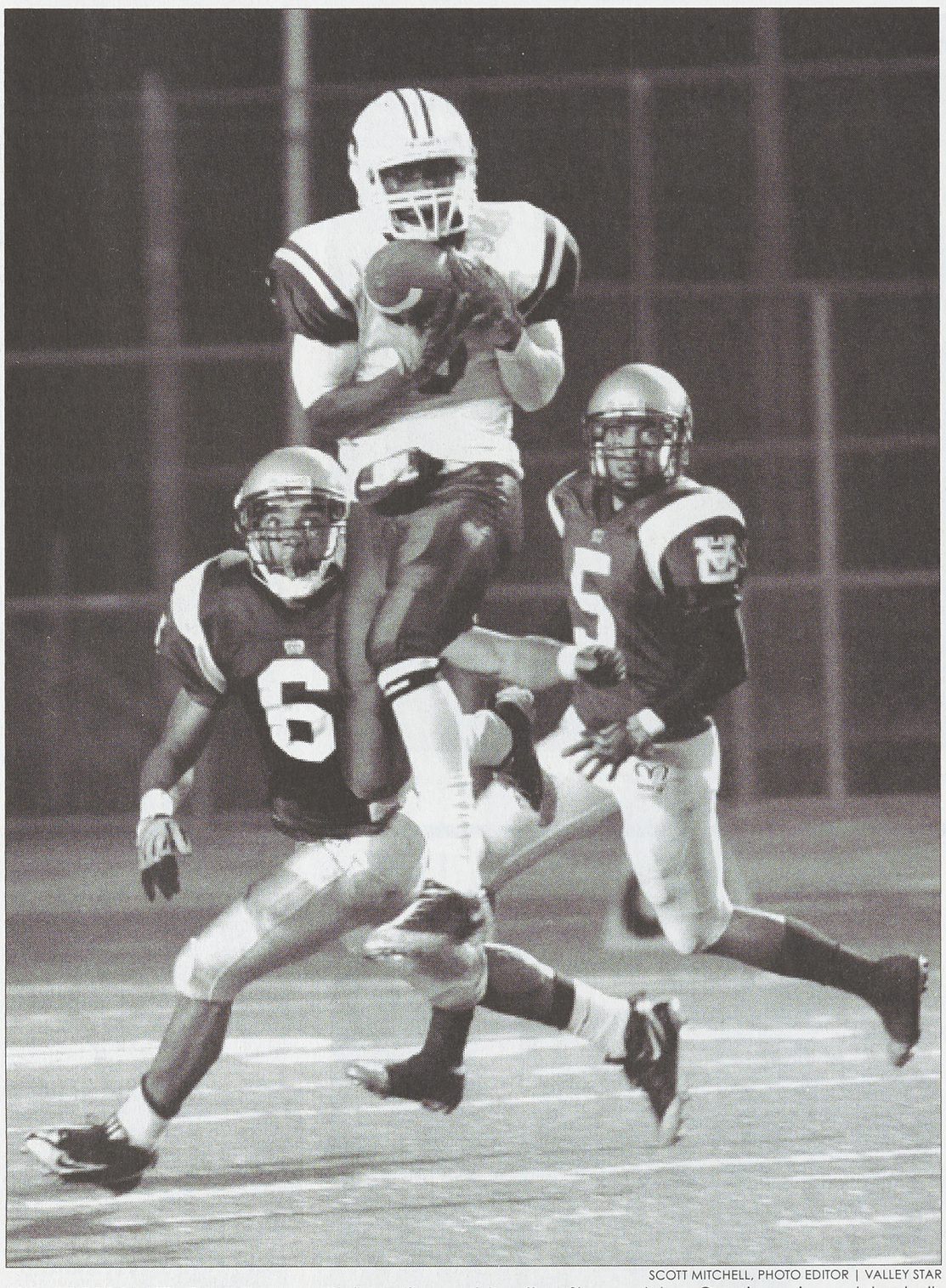
ALSO AVAILABLE:

- *Train - Save Me San Francisco*
- *Tim McGraw - Southern Voice*
- *Rammstein - Liebe Ist Fur Alle Da*
- *Rod Stewart - Soulbook*
- *AC/DC - Black Ice*

CONCERTS



- *Steve Miller Band: Oct. 22 Boyard Auditorium*
- *Heart/The Bangles: Oct. 23 Greek Theatre*
- *Barry Manilow: Oct. 24 Hollywood Bowl*
- *Craig Robinson: Oct. 24 The Mint*
- *Echo & Bunnymen: Oct. 24 Nokia Theatre*
- *L.A. Guns: Oct. 24 Club Vodka*
- *Ennio Morricone: Oct. 25 Hollywood Bowl*



SCOTT MITCHELL, PHOTO EDITOR | VALLEY STAR

TOO LITTLE TOO LATE - Defensivebacks Chris Martinez and Jonathan Shaw watch as Corsair receiver catches ball.

HUSKIES SQUEAK PAST MONARCHS AT HOMECOMING GAME SATURDAY

Monarchs lose 41-40 to the East Los Angeles College Huskies Saturday Night at homecoming game.

ROBERT R. KING
OPINION EDITOR

SCOTT MITCHELL, PHOTO EDITOR | VALLEY STAR

FIGHTING FOR YARDS - Brett Ackerman fights for yards against two defenders.

The smoke from the barbeques at homecoming Saturday night cast an eerie haze above Monarch field as Valley lost a 41-40-barn burner to the East Los Angeles Huskies.

The teams combined for 1,141 yards of total offense, but the game was won on a late defensive rally when the Huskies were able to stop the Monarchs on their final possession of the game.

"Our guys hung in there and played hard," said Huskies Head Coach Lynn Cain after the game. "The number one thing I talk about is don't quit, and we didn't, and were able to get a win tonight."

The Monarchs scored on two of their first three possessions, stopping the Huskies twice to take a 14-0 lead early in the second quarter with two touchdown passes by quarterback Brett Visciglia to tight end Chase Leake and wide receiver Josh Stangby.

The Huskies answered with a six-play, 77-yard touchdown and a four-play, 63-yard drive behind quarterback Pedro Velasquez to tie the game at 14.

The Monarchs next drive was halted after five plays leading to a punt in which kicker Wilmer Segura was injured on a late hit after the kick.

After the punt the Monarchs' defense stopped the Huskies and followed with a 67-yard drive of their own which was capped by Visciglia's third touchdown pass of the game. With Segura on the sideline being treated for his injury, the Monarchs failed to convert a two-point conversion.

"It all comes down to the details of the game," said Monarch Head Coach Jim Fenwick. "The penalty where we lost our kicker was negated by our own penalty and that cost us."

The Huskies received the second half kickoff and went 70 yards to score. Visciglia answered with his fourth touchdown pass of the night, but Velasquez, who threw for 456 yards, followed with a 63-yard bomb to Anthony Denham to take the lead once more 28-27.

Segura, who stayed on the field during halftime to try and work through the pain of his injury, missed a field goal attempt on the Monarchs next drive. Valley safety Sean Williams intercepted a Velasquez pass two plays later and Visciglia, who threw for 470 yards, followed suit with another touchdown pass to Leake.

East L.A. running back Isam Pegues, who totaled 146 yards on 23 carries ran for touchdowns on the Huskies' next two drives, in between which Visciglia threw his second touchdown pass to Travion Odom but the Monarchs failed on another two-point conversion attempt.

After Pegues' second touchdown the Monarchs had a chance to score again when they got the ball with 3:50 to go, but the Huskies stood up and made their defensive stand.

"We can't get down on ourselves but we have to understand that we made some mistakes," said Monarchs defensive line coach Julio Gramajo after the game. "We lost a tough one but we have to go back to work. There's a learning opportunity on each play. We're a young team and we'll keep improving."

OPINION

LIMBAUGH LIKE A FOX

Rush Limbaugh's attempt to buy in as a minority owner of the St. Louis Rams falls short.

JOSH SPENCE
MANAGING EDITOR

EDUARDO HERRERA | VALLEY STAR

When I think of Rush Limbaugh, words like "conservative," "segregation," and "idiotic" come to mind. The talk-radio host can now add "unity" to his repertoire bringing NFL owners and players to universally reject his nomination as minority owner of the St. Louis Rams.

Limbaugh was part of a buyer group headed by Dave Checketts to purchase the St. Louis Rams. Due to the controversial nature of Limbaugh's radio show and league-wide disdain, Checketts omitted the host's name in order to boost his chance of purchasing the team.

Limbaugh forgot that the "all press is good press" dynamic doesn't apply to everyone. Rush may be bulletproof with his constituents, but the media has hardly forgiven his actions. For someone who is so "smart," as the radio host often claims to be, it isn't rocket science to understand that comments like, "I think what we've had here is a little social concern in the NFL. The media has been very desirous that a black quarterback do well. There is little hope invested in McNabb, and he got a lot of credit that he didn't deserve," won't get him anywhere within striking distance of owning any team."

The reason for Limbaugh being excused from the list is justified. If Limbaugh were to successfully take ownership, the NFL wouldn't be dealing with a former Cincinnati Reds Marge Schott type of owner whose ignorant statements reflect a darker day and age in American society. Imagine the field-day reporters would have, combined with the utter conniption by NFL Commissioner Roger Goodell, the moment Rush starts ranting about how President Obama is a Muslim, fascist, Nazi, dictator, while commenting on his team whose enjoying yet another losing season.

If he did in fact do this as a media stunt, he hasn't gained anything with his "This is far from over," cry-babying. The constant "Obama isn't an American citizen," diatribes and red herrings make him the epitome of a non-candidate for NFL ownership.

In today's media environment with a 24-hour news cycle and convergence occurring at an exponential rate, it's okay for politics and sports to be on separate channels. Sports is one of America's great escapes from the outside world, adding Limbaugh's political rhetoric, even in an ownership position, desecrates the pureness of watching the game when you have to worry about what's coming out of his big fat mouth next.

The one bright spot out of this sad sack of a non-story is that the rich don't always get richer and not everyone (even the rich people) can always be bought.

Monarchs Lose 2-1 In Physical Game Against Santa Monica

Valley soccer loses 2-1 in a physical match-up Friday against the Santa Monica City College Corsairs.

RUBI MARTINEZ
STAFF WRITER

In an emotional setting last Friday in the women's soccer game, the Monarchs scored with one minute remaining; unfortunately, it would not be enough in a 2-1 loss against Santa Monica College.

With minutes remaining in the game, Valley player Kayta Kroell attacked Santa Monica (SMC) player Xochitl Salgado by pulling Salgado's hair. After a heated argument, both players were given red cards for unsportsmanship behavior.

"She had kicked me numerous times and the last time she just sled into me, kicking me without the ball, and that's when I just pulled her hair," Kroell said. "I understand completely why I got the red card but because she was cursing at me that's why she got one too."

The game took a turn after the conflict occurred; when the two main players that started the brawl left the field, other verbal assaults broke out while still playing. This time it was Santa Monica freshman player Shayne Werber who got a yellow card infraction for attempting to start another fight.

"I executed the play, tackle, and got the ball. She just happened to fall on me, so I was on the floor and was getting up and she grabbed me by the hair and grabbed me that's when I snapped," Salgado said.

The coaches from both teams agreed that the girls lost their composure and frustration got the best of them towards the end.

"Frustration started running high and the girls started snapping at each other and losing composures a little bit. Things started to get heated up and the heat got to the girls; we were fatigued and just couldn't stay tough mentally," said Valley Head Coach Shane Watkins. "With this group it has been hard to dig ourselves out of holes. We don't have the character as a unit to come back yet, we haven't really shown that side of us."

The Corsairs head coach was upset at the fact that emotions got the best of the players. Coach Aaron Benditson said, "We have to be smart about things, and need to know when you're a team in the lead you need to have composure and set you emotions aside."

Despite the game having a bitter moment, Valley managed to score one goal and also kept up with Corsairs' rapid plays without giving up. But the Corsairs' penetration would be too much for the Monarch team.

Santa Monica would score early as middle defender Charlotte Toates assisted forward middle fielder Santos Tejada with the ball. Maneuvering through three players Toates dribbled, and passed the ball to Tejada for the score.

The second goal, which gave Valley, the loss came from SMC forward defender Caitlin Rutherford, ten minutes into the second half.

"Our biggest thing was that we been leaking off a lot of goals. Trying not to conceive goals, we had a lot of opportunities with in this team and just to convert the opportunities we get and if we finish those opportunities this could have been a lot more lopsided," Benditson said.

SAMUEL OSKNER, CHIEF PHOTOGRAPHER | VALLEY STAR

PHYSICAL PLAY - Sophomore Maria Guardado falls during Friday's match

SAM UEL OSKNER, CHIEF PHOTOGRAPHER | VALLEY STAR

KEEP AWAY- Valley player Sabrina Spialek keeping the ball from the defense

Valley Baseball Star Robert Ninfo Comes Back to Coach the Game he Loves

Former Baseball star Robert Ninfo returns to Valley to lend his hand in coaching the struggling Monarchs.

CRISTINA SERRATO
STAFF WRITER

It was back in 2005 when Valley College went to the baseball conference finals; Robert Ninfo played second base. Now he's back, this time as an infield coach, with high hopes of helping Head Coach Dave Mallas lead Valley baseball back to the Western State Conference Finals for a chance at victory.

"Ninfo will be successful at anything he does," said Mallas. "We want all of our players to be successful and have the tools to succeed in life. Now he's giving back to the program."

At 25, Ninfo has done more in his college sports career than most people; he has played ball in 15 states and two countries and won the award for the Most Spectacular Play of the Men's NCAA College World Series, 2006.

His college career began at Valley College after graduating from Chatsworth High School. Ninfo went on to play for Newman University, followed by two summers with the Crestwood Panthers, a semi-pro team which made it to the National Baseball Congress World Series both years he played. After two successful seasons with the Panthers, Ninfo played for the Southern Illinois Miners.

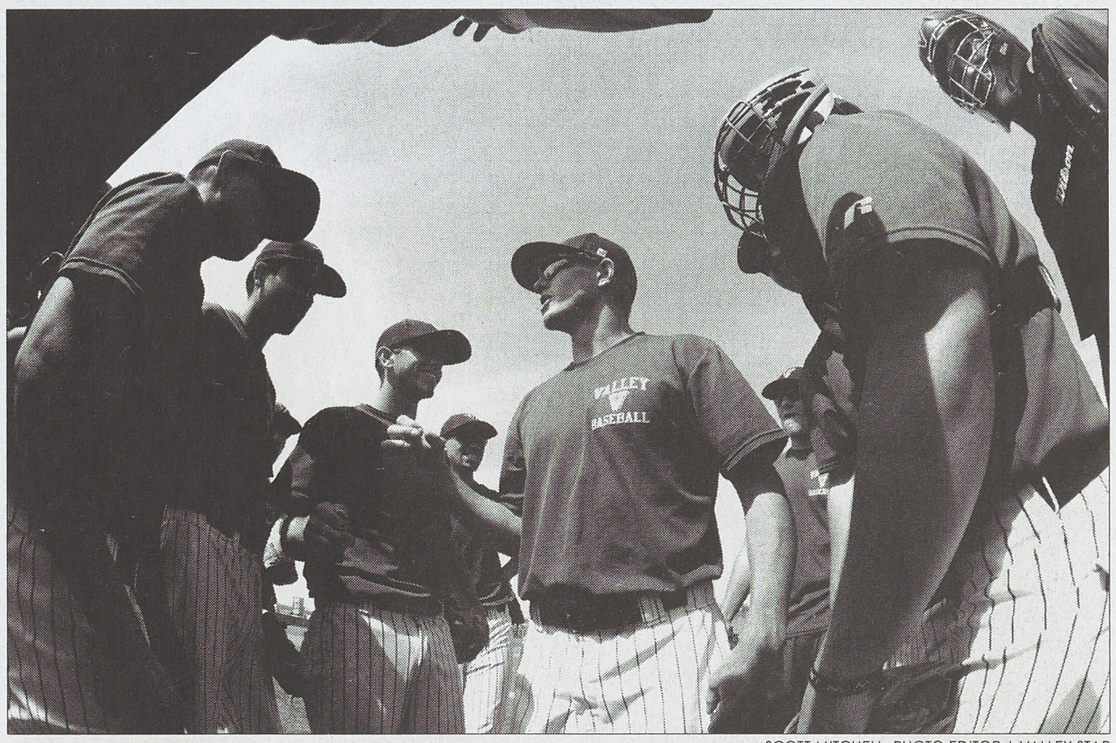
Ninfo has the Midas touch when it comes to baseball. Every team he played for made it to conference finals the year he played; they won series or broken records, partly because of Ninfo's diligence, hard work and work ethics.

"He demands and gets the best out of you; his phrase is 'Never give a day off," said second baseman Trevor McMaster.

And "Never give a day off," is truly Ninfo's motto. After a shoulder injury this past summer, which resulted in his AAA baseball league release for the Illinois Miners, he continued to play and offer private instruction to children and teens with aspirations in baseball. After speaking with Coach Mallas, he decided to take a coaching position here at Valley in order to give back to the program and the game he loves.

"Ninfo is a tremendous asset to the baseball program here. He was an intricate part of the baseball team in '05 and so he understands the philosophy that we want to get across to our players," Coach Mallas said "He's young, just a few years older than most of our players, so they relate to him."

There's an overall respect and like for the newly appointed infield coach. You won't find a player who has anything bad to say about him, even with his aggressive approach to coaching. Ninfo says, "They just don't want to run."



SCOTT MITCHELL, PHOTO EDITOR | VALLEY STAR
THE OPPOSITE SIDE - Former Valley star Robert Ninfo coaching up the Monarch baseball squad in pre-season.

SCOTT MITCHELL, PHOTO EDITOR | VALLEY STAR
ALL SMILES - Valley cheer team motivates the crowd with positive spirtit and impressive dancing at homecoming

Valley Cheer Team Never Loses Focus of School Spirit and Valley Pride

Valley cheerleaders and spirit team members work hard to keep up Valley pride through positive spirit.

SCOTT O' MALLEY
STAFF WRITER

Even though the Monarchs lost their Homecoming football game against East Los Angeles College, Valley pride was still present as the cheer squad kept the crowd involved with their booming cheers and valiant spirit.

The team is a mixture of two individual squads: the spirit squad and cheerleaders. "If you pump up a crowd and have school spirit you're a cheerleader," said cheerleader Samantha Jenkins. The spirit squad is a dance crew that focuses on choreographed dance routines as opposed to the cheerleading squad whom concentrates on stunts and acrobatics.

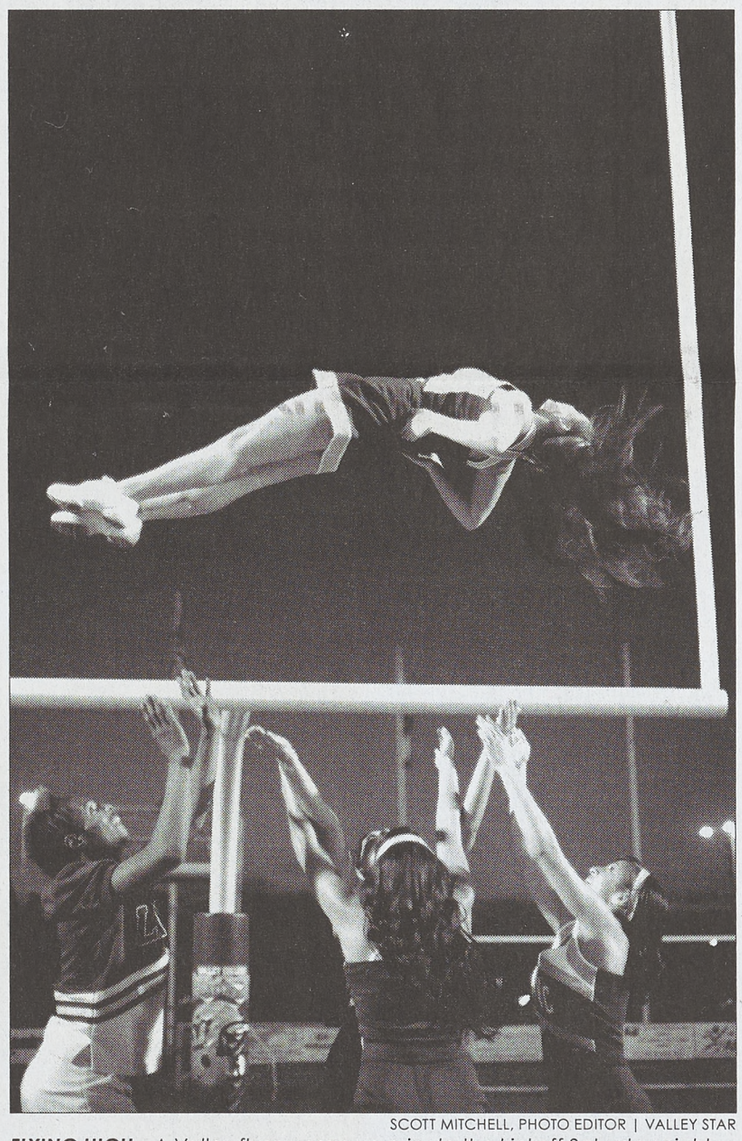
Being on the cheer squad is not easy. According to Head Coach Rachel Paul, "It takes coordination, stamina, and personality." Paul should know; she has coached four national championship teams, three with Notre Dame High School and one with UCLA.

"She's awesome and has a great attitude," Athletic Director Deidre Stark said.

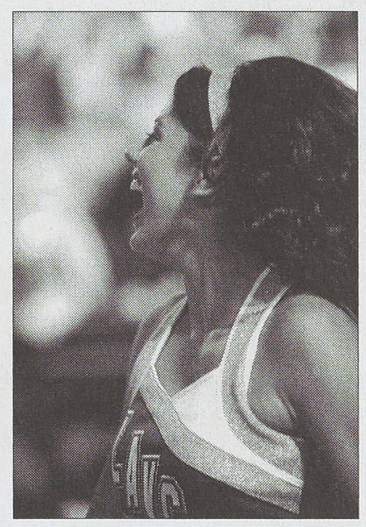
"Flying" is the term cheerleaders use to describe being tossed in the air. It's also part of one of their finest and most risky stunts, the basket toss. The basket toss consists of three performers lifting up another cheerleader and launching her up to 10 feet in the air, catching her on her way down. "It takes a lot of trust in your teammates to be a flyer," said Paul. Though dangerous, Desi Sanchez – one of the cheerleaders who is called a flyer because she gets tossed up – said she "Loves to fly."

The squad not only cheers it also raises funds for the team. At halftime of each home game, the squad goes into the bleachers to sell raffle tickets to the crowd. The fundraising allows the team to attend all road games and finance new team uniforms unlike the East Los Angeles College pep squad that can only attend one away game a semester due to financial issues, according to their head coach, Eva Zepeda.

With yearlong training and hours of practice there are three things which facilitate the squad to stay positive according to cheerleader Jamell Anderson, "Keeping in physical shape, performing in front of a crowd and dancing."



SCOTT MITCHELL, PHOTO EDITOR | VALLEY STAR
FLYING HIGH - A Valley flyer warms up prior to the kickoff Saturday night.



SCOTT MITCHELL, PHOTO EDITOR | VALLEY STAR

SCHEDULES

Men's Water Polo: Away
Oct. 23-24th TBA
Golden West Tournament

Women's Soccer: Away
Oct. 23rd 4pm
Vs. Mission College

Cross Country: Away
Oct. 27th 3pm
WSC Finals @ Cuestas College

Women's Water Polo: Away
Oct. 21st **4:15pm**
vs. Cuesta College

Football: Home
Sept. 24th 7pm
vs. Los Angeles Southwest College

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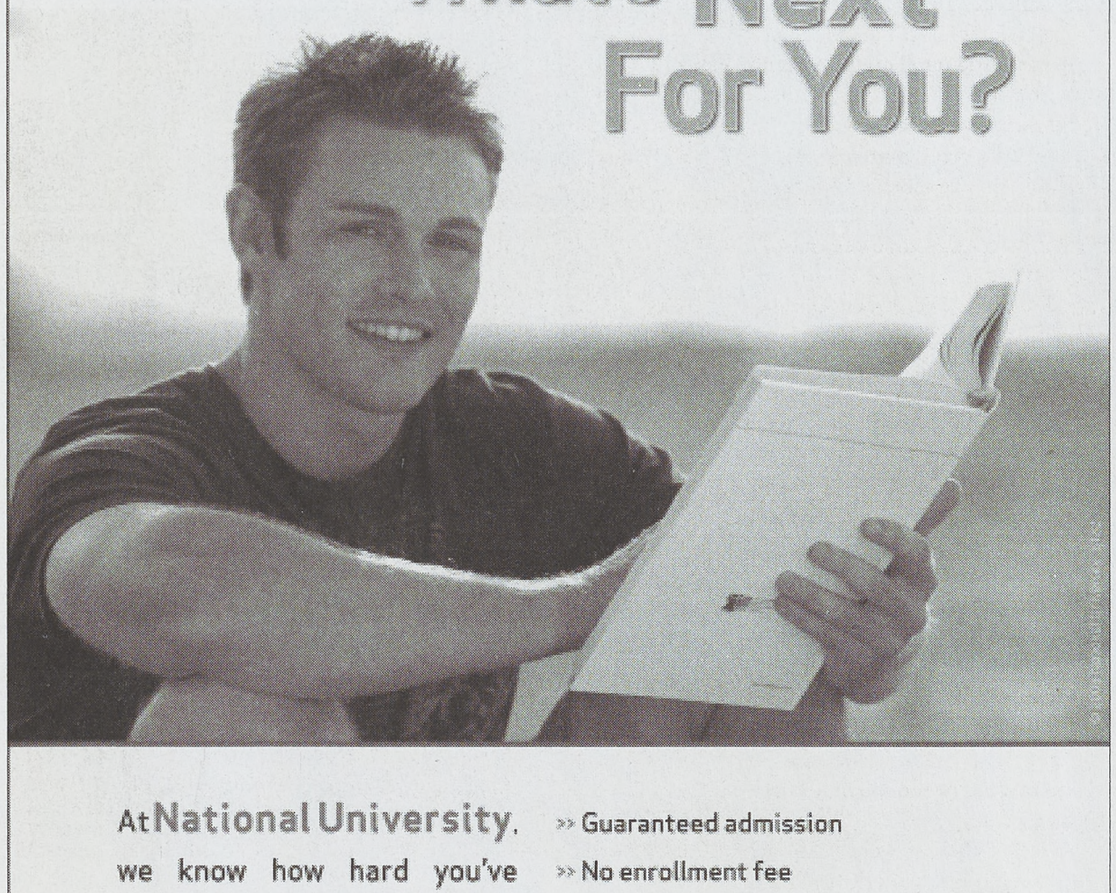

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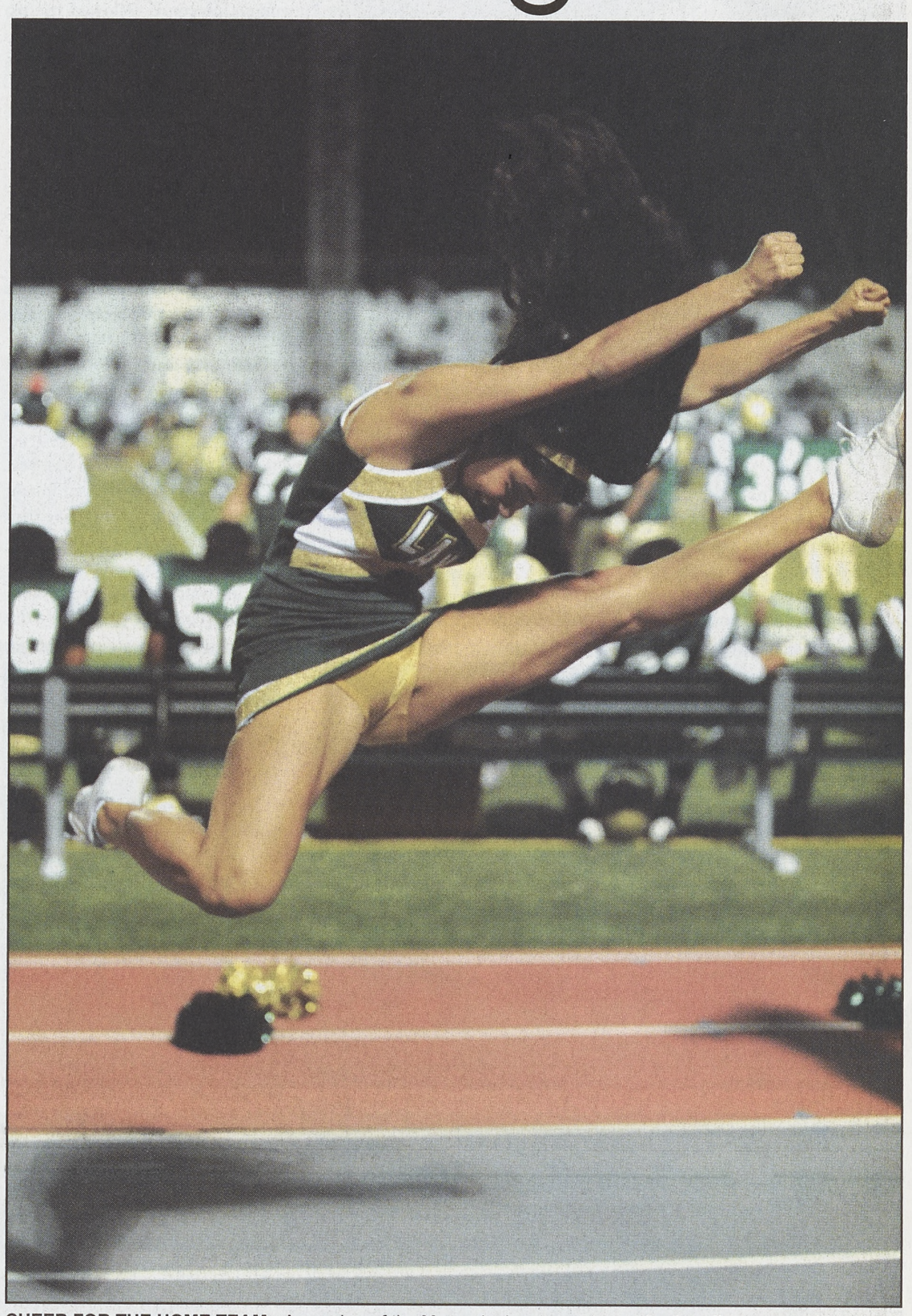
Monarchs' Homecoming 2009

TAILGATING IN STYLE - A youngster serves up food from the back of her father's pickup truck before the game.



CHEER FOR THE HOME TEAM - A member of the Monarch cheer squad roots for the offense in the first half.

WORDS AND PHOTOS BY
SCOTT MITCHELL
PHOTO EDITOR

In 1911, more than 9,000 fans packed into Rollins Field (current site of Stankowski Field) for the first official homecoming. The tradition was born at the University of Missouri and has served as a model for the various Homecoming celebrations that take place across the nation.

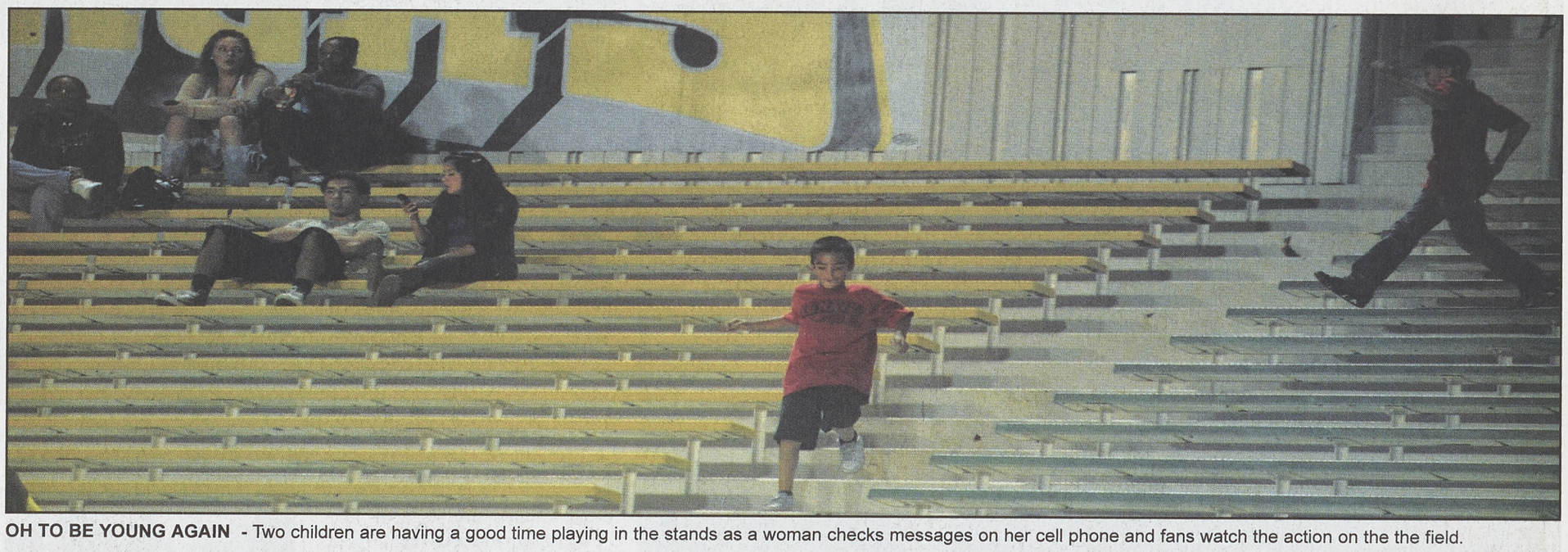
Almost 100 years later, the tradition of homecoming has become an integral part of the Valley College experience.

Celebrating 60 years of service to the community, Monarch homecoming 2009 carries that tradition forward.

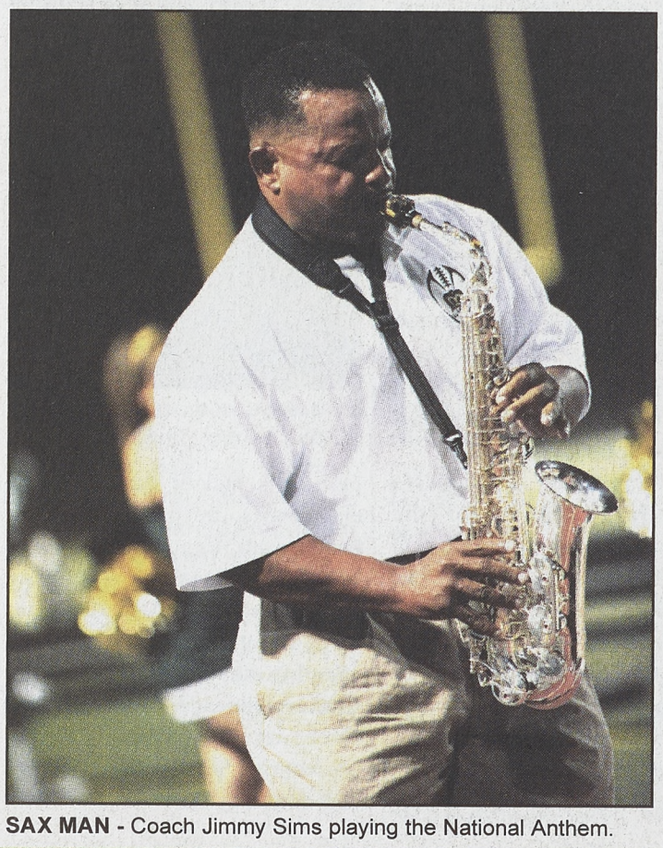
"Homecoming at Valley College presents a golden opportunity for current faculty, students, and staff to visit with returning alumni in what has become a very enthusiastic pep rally," said Dale Beck, sports information director. I personally enjoyed all the enthusiasm shared by the attendees."

Valley President Sue Carleo, Athletic Director Diedre Stark, and recently retired Athletic Director, Chuck Ferrero were present.

Mother nature provided a clear warm night and perfect weather conditions for the game. The Monarchs led the East Los Angeles College Huskies for most of the game. At the end of the offensive barn burner, 81 combined points were scored. The Huskies beat the Monarchs by one point. The game ended with both teams shaking hands at mid-field. More than 800 people were present to keep the tradition of homecoming alive.



OH TO BE YOUNG AGAIN - Two children are having a good time playing in the stands as a woman checks messages on her cell phone and fans watch the action on the the field.



SAX MAN - Coach Jimmy Sims playing the National Anthem.

BRING ON THE BARBECUE - Grill master prepares hamburgers and hot dogs before the end of the first half of play.